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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Personnel Changes in the GAI

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(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

DATE OF [REDACTED]

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1. Effective 1 July Vice President Erich Mielke has ceased to exercise his functions in the German Administration of the Interior. All sections of the GAI have been notified by circular letter that Mielke's functions are being taken over by the recently appointed Vice President Karl Heinz Hoffmann. Like Mielke, he will be in charge of Hauptabteilung Polit/Kultur and of Hauptabteilung Personal.

2. The following explanations have been reported:

- a. Mielke is at present on leave. It is presumed that Mielke suffered a demotion because of his close friendship with Walter Ulbricht. *
- b. The fact that Mielke was instrumental in effecting the release of the deputy chief of the Advanced Police School of the GAI, Bernhard Gabelin, and of Robert Bialek, formerly chief of Hauptabteilung Polit/Kultur, may shed some light on the circumstances that led to Mielke's dismissal. Gabelin's wife is said to occupy an important position in the Central Secretariat of the SED. So does Bialek, whose position is that of referent on police matters. The theory has been advanced that Gabelin and/or Bialek may have brought about Mielke's ouster.

3. It is reported that Vice President Wilhelm Zaisser will be placed in charge of the border- and paramilitary police for the whole Russian Zone. This will effectively relieve President Fischer, who heretofore was charged directly with that responsibility. At one time police General Staimer, chief of the state police of Brandenburg, had been slated for that assignment. Zaisser's appointment removes Staimer as a possible candidate. It is alleged that Staimer is under investigation by the SED for financial irregularities.

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008